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NSC BRIEFING

2 December 1953

SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR

I. Comments of Soviet official

- A. The Soviet director of Amtorg (Soviet purchasing agency in the U.S.) is still showing a strong interest in increased exports to the United States, particularly in furs.
- B. In the last month or two Stalin's name has reappeared more often in the Soviet papers. However, the references are still less frequent than while he was living.
- C. This Soviet official, in commenting on this fact, said "We are heading again for different things; the line is changed again."

II. Significance of these remarks

- A. The rather moderately increased press reference to Stalin - particularly noted during the anniversary celebrations - is in itself no indication of a significant policy change.
- B. There has been no let-up in the Soviet internal conciliatory policy.
- C. At the time this official spoke, Soviet foreign policy appeared to have grown less conciliatory and seemed to be avoiding any high level talks. The 26 November Soviet note seems to have reopened the door to four power talks, but indicates that

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the Kremlin will maintain that the conference
must be expanded to include Communist China.